CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Honorable John C. Stennis, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.   20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request for our comments on
S. Res. 404, establishing a Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Policy. The Select Committee would be empowered to examine
intelligence operations and policies of the United States Government,
determine the role of such activities in the decision-making process,
and measure the impact of intelligence operations on national security
and foreign policy.

I have consistently taken the position that the manner in which
congressional oversight is exercised over this Agency is a matter for
Congress itself to determine. Consistent with this policy, I also
prefer not to comment on the merits of establishing the proposed
Select Committee. I am confident, however, that in effecting any
change the Senate will take whatever steps are necessary to assure
the protection of Intelligence Sources and Methods from unauthorized
disclosure, consistent with the responsibility imposed upon me by the
National Security Act of 1947 and the Central Intelligence Agency
Act of 1949.

It is noted that the proposed field of inquiry for the Senate
Select Committee is almost identical to one of the major areas
currently being studied by the Commission on the Organization of the
Government for the Conduct of Foreign Policy, which was created by
P. L. 92-352. The Commission's findings are to be reported to the Congress
and to the President by June 30, 1975, which is also the deadline for an interim

report by the proposed Select Committee. Senator James B. Pearson is vice-chairman of the Commission, and Senator Mike Mansfield and Representatives Clement J. Zablocki and Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen are members.

The Office of Management and Budget advises there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

STATINTL

W. E. Colby
Director

2